

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER

Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 818
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3581
FAX: (303) 866-3589

<http://water.state.co.us/default.htm>



Bill Owens
Governor

Greg E. Walcher
Executive Director

Hal D. Simpson, P.E.
State Engineer

July 30, 1999

The Honorable Joel Hefley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hefley:

In regard to the announcement from Representative Tancredo's office, dated July 22, 1999, about the review of the "Cherry Creek Flood Data", we wish to clarify that Dr. William Cotton at Colorado State University will not be conducting an independent review of the weather service data as part of the *Colorado Department of Natural Resource's Extreme Storm Precipitation Study*.

The Department, through the Colorado Division of Water Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, have entered into a contract with Colorado State University (CSU) for the "Development of New Methodologies for Determining Extreme Precipitation". CSU has been engaged to evaluate extreme precipitation at high elevation in Colorado. The extreme precipitation study was begun in 1995 in response to uncertainty regarding the magnitude of precipitation above 7500 feet in Colorado, based upon paleo-flood hydrology.

Although Dr. Cotton offered to do a test of the Cherry Creek basin using the prototype version of the extreme precipitation estimate technique they plan to develop, our study is not for the purpose of evaluating Probable Maximum Precipitation in the Cherry Creek Basin.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Cotton or Mr. Pearson.

Sincerely,

Alan Pearson, Project Manager
Colorado Division of Water Resources
Dam Safety Branch

Dr. William R. Cotton, Professor
Department of Atmospheric Science
Colorado State University

Copy of announcement for ccs.
Cc: Attachment